

Thailand confirms passenger fee increase from June 20

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: Airports of Thailand (AOT) has confirmed that the passenger service charge (PSC) for international departures will increase from THB 730 to THB 1,120 starting June 20, following approval from the Ministry of Transport.

AOT President Paweena Jariyathitipong announced on May 6 that the revised PSC had received official approval after the proposal was first introduced in February. However, the domestic PSC will remain unchanged at THB 130 per person.

The announcement has prompted concerns among travelers over rising airfare costs. Paweena acknowledged the increase would inevitably affect ticket prices but stressed that AOT had conducted studies in accordance with standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) before approving the adjustment.

She said the revised charges were calculated based on operational costs and factual financial assessments. The higher rate is expected to generate over THB 10 billion in additional revenue annually that AOT plans to utilize to improve airport facilities and passenger services across the country.

She also argued that fuel prices have a greater impact on airfare than the PSC increase and that studies conducted by AOT and other organizations suggest the higher charge would not significantly deter travelers.

The fee increase comes alongside broader expansion plans for Thailand's major airports. Expansion projects for Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, and Phuket are expected to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval this year.

The projects are budgeted at approximately THB 80 billion. Paweena confirmed that AOT currently holds around THB 10 billion in cash reserves and has already secured funding for the planned developments.

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